

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Allen Carl, et al.

EXAMINER: UNASSIGNED

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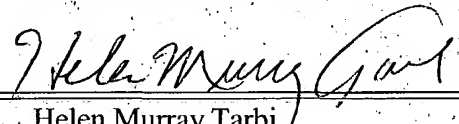
FOR: SYSTEMS, METHODS, DEVICES AND DEVICE KITS FOR FIXATION OF
BONES AND SPINAL VERTEBRAE (AS-AMENDED)

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office Addressee" Mailing Label Number EV 343731717 US addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 20, 2003.

By:


Helen Murray Tarbi

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject continuing application as follows and before calculating the filing fee therefor:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, delete the Title in its entirety and replace therewith the following:

SYSTEMS, METHODS, DEVICES AND DEVICE KITS FOR FIXATION OF BONES AND
SPINAL VERTEBRAE.

Page 1, before line 1 insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. application serial number
09/536,732, filed March 28, 2000, now allowed, which application claims the benefit of U.S.